GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:101
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000
MODERNISATION OF TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM IN RURAL AREAS
BASANGOUDA PATIL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise the Telecommunication system in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and (

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED NO.101 FOR 31ST JULY, 2000 REGARI
MODERNISATION OF TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM IN RURAL AREAS

The Government has planned to modernize the telecommunication systems in rural areas. Telephone connections in the rural areas are being provided from state of art electronic exchanges. Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in the villages have been provided hitherto on land lines from the nearby exchanges and Analog Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) systems.The performance of MARR systems has not been found to be very satisfactory. Therefore, the department has planned to induct the following new technologies based on digital techniques for providing VPTs.

- Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) systems : To provide VPTs and to meet the scattered demand of telephones in rural areas.

- C-DoT Time Division Multiple Access Point to Multi Point (TDMA/PMP)To provide VPTs and to meet the scattered demand of telephones in rural areas.

- Satellite: To provide VPTs in remote, hilly, inaccessible & isolated areas of the country.

In addition wherever technically feasible and length of line is about 5 Kms., provision of VPTs on land lines /underground cables will continue.

The Government plans are as under:

- To provide VPTs in the remaining villages by March 2002 with the joint efforts of Private Fixed Service providers.

- To provide telephone on demand by March, 2002.

- To provide reliable transmission media to all exchanges by the year 2002.

- To provide STD facility to all exchanges by the year 2001.

- To provide Internet facility in each Block Headquarter in the current year.

The steps taken by the Department are as under:-

- The entire telecom system has been geared up to meet the target of providing telephone facilities in all the villages of the country by 2002.

- Out of 6.07 lakhs villages in the country, 3.76 lakh villages have been provided with VPTs as on 1st July, 2000. It is proposed to provide VPTs in 1 lakh villages in the current financial year and balance in next financial year with the joint efforts of Private Fixed Service Providers. For provision of VPTs, WLL systems and C-DoT TDMA/PMP systems are being procured.The equipment is likely to be available by December, 2000.

- 400 Satellite Terminals are being procured and these are being progressively installed in remote & isolated areas of the country.

- Faulty VPTs in the country working on MARR system are planned to be replaced by new technology VPTs in a phased manner by the year 2002.

- At present, 21755 telephone exchanges are operational in rural areas. It is proposed to install 3431 exchanges in the current financial year in rural areas. Reliable OFC media is being provided for these telephone exchanges.

- All Secondary Switching Area (SSA) Headquarters will be provided with Internet NodesSimilarly, all Block Headquarters and District Headquarters will be provided with Internet facility in the current financial year.